



SECTION II: COURT STATISTICS

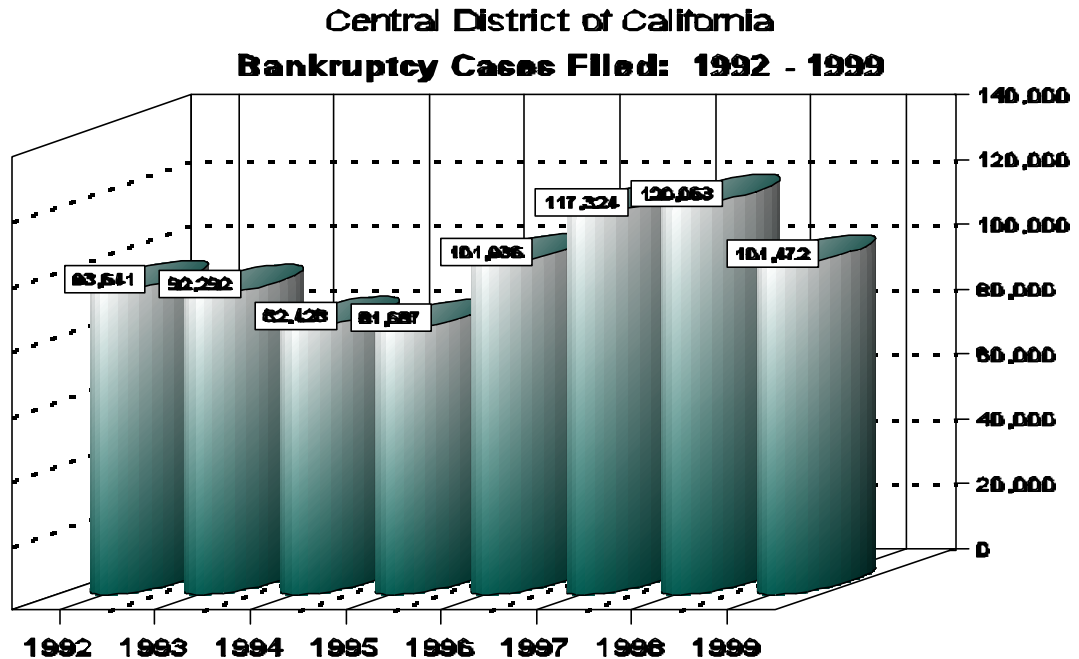


Court Statistics

Filings of Bankruptcy Cases and Adversary Proceedings Decrease From 1998 Record

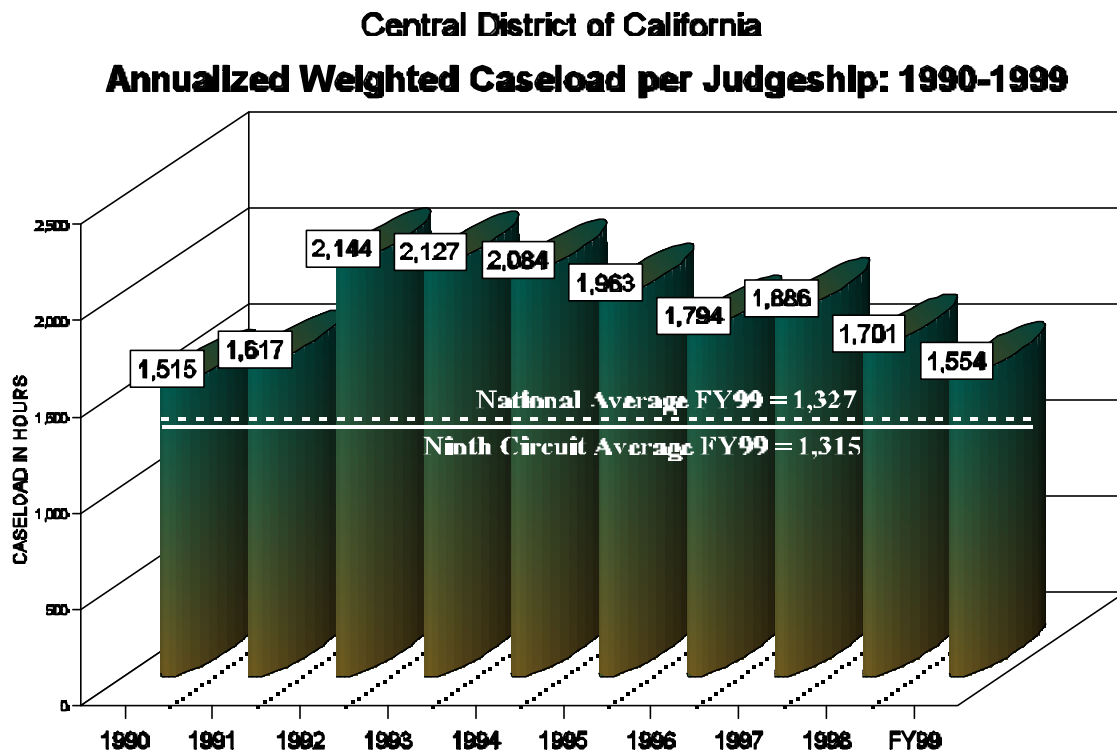
A total of 101,472 bankruptcy cases were filed in the Central District of California during 1999, representing a 15.5% decrease from the record 120,063 cases filed in 1998. Bankruptcy case filings declined in all five divisions of the Court and in every chapter of bankruptcy in 1999. The largest percentage decrease in filings was noted in Chapter 11, where filings were 25.3% less than in 1998. Chapter 7 filings were down by 17.1%, while Chapter 13 filings were down by 7.5%. Filings of adversary proceedings in 1999 decreased by 7.7% from the prior year. [See Exhibit 15.]

The following graph illustrates bankruptcy case filing statistics from 1992 through 1999.



Judge Weighted Caseload Continues to Exceed National Average

In March 1991, the Judicial Conference approved the bankruptcy case weights developed in the Bankruptcy Judge Time Study by the Federal Judicial Center. The weights were established primarily for evaluating requests for additional judgeships, but also provided useful information about the workloads of the judges of the Court and facilitated judicial workload comparisons with other bankruptcy courts across the nation and within the Ninth Circuit. In fiscal year 1999, the per-judge weighted caseload in this district was 1,554 hours per judge or 227 hours (17%) greater than the 1,327-hour national average, and 239 hours (18%) higher than the 1,315-hour Ninth Circuit average. (See the following graph.)

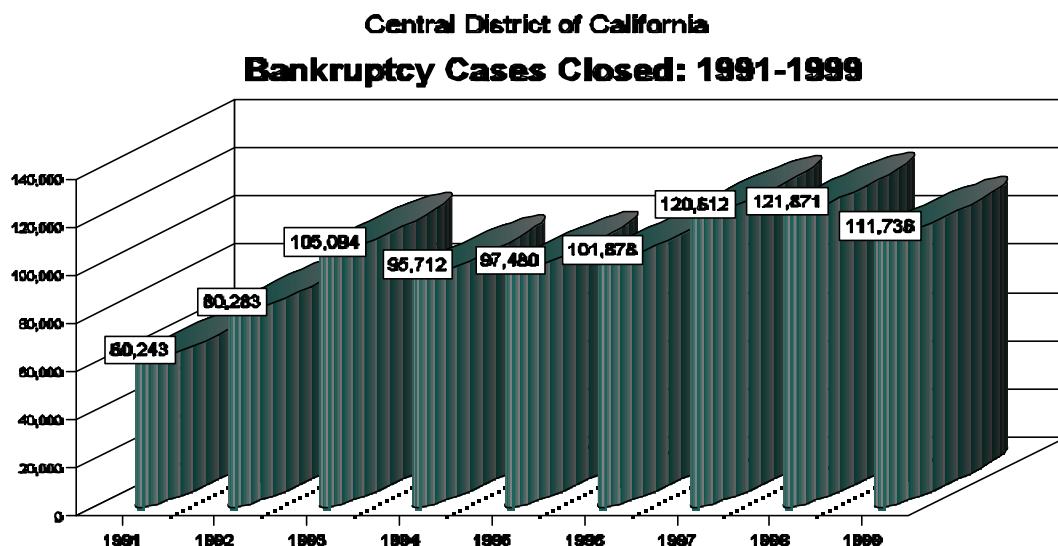


Relief from Stay Motions Decrease

The number of relief from stay motions filed in the Central District continued to decrease in recent years. In calendar year 1999, a total of 25,430 motions were filed in the district, representing a decrease of 24% from the 33,547 motions filed in 1998. This decline may be attributed to both the prompt dismissal of incomplete petitions before creditors can file a motion for relief from stay and to the overall decrease in the number of cases being filed.

Bankruptcy Case and Adversary Proceeding Closings

Bankruptcy case closing performance for the district remained consistent throughout 1999, averaging approximately 9,500 cases closed per month. During 1999, the district closed 111,736 bankruptcy cases and 6,425 adversary proceedings, outpacing the number of bankruptcy cases and adversary proceedings filed. To help manage the closing effort throughout the year, the district sets closing goals for various types of bankruptcy cases, as well as for adversary proceedings.



1999 Unlawful Detainer and Mill Case Incidence Study

Sample data collected from the case files for petitions filed in April of 1999 indicated a continued decline in petitions filed to stop eviction. Further analysis demonstrates



that, over time, there has been a decrease in the use of Chapter 7 for unlawful detainer petitions and an increase in the use of Chapter 13. The 1999 findings are similar to those of 1998 in the extent to which unlawful detainer petitions relate to Chapter 13 as opposed to Chapter 7. In 1999, an unlawful detainer was involved in 13.5% of the Chapter 13 cases in the sample but in only 4.1% of the Chapter 7 cases. As in 1998, the use of such petitions was less frequent among renters than it was by persons wishing to avoid eviction after foreclosure. The Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley Divisions continue to have the greatest incidence of such petitions.

Filings by so-called bankruptcy mills have remained relatively constant. (A bankruptcy mill is a non-attorney who prepares frequently misleading and sometimes fraudulent petitions. The debtors for whom they work are often misled with respect to the facts and repercussions of filing for bankruptcy.) Although the number of unlawful detainer petitions has decreased, this decrease applied mostly to the petitions not prepared by the mills. Twenty-seven percent of the unlawful detainer petitions in the study sample were prepared by mills. The mills also continued to prepare a very small number of petitions for persons whose motive for filing is not to stop eviction.

PERCENT OF BANKRUPTCY CASES THAT ARE UNLAWFUL DETAINER FILINGS: 1991-1999						
Year	Los Angeles	San Fernando Valley	Northern	Santa Ana	Riverside	District Total
1991	22.4	*	*	10.9	2.6	16.9
1992	12.9	*	*	9.4	6.4	11.0
1993	11.9	*	1.3	3.2	1.2	8.3
1994	13.3	12.4	7.0	4.0	2.3	9.5
1995	3.2	4.2	0.2	1.4	3.6	3.0
1996	10.9	12.7	3.5	2.2	7.3	8.8
1997	10.4	12.8	5.4	6.9	1.2	8.0
1998	9.0	7.4	3.3	3.8	3.7	7.1
1999	6.6	6.8	3.5	4.6	2.4	5.4

*Included in the Los Angeles Division Numbers.

PROJECTED ANNUAL UNLAWFUL DETAINER FILINGS						
Year	Los Angeles	San Fernando Valley	Northern	Santa Ana	Riverside	District Total
1991	11,152	*	*	1,298	382	12,832
1992	7,602	*	*	1,307	1,170	10,079
1993	6,860	*	56	436	225	7,521
1994	6,604	1,292	381	512	390	7,506
1995	1,607	429	11	182	656	2,446
1996	6,907	1,926	189	337	1,621	8,865
1997	7,639	2,265	352	1,408	271	9,318
1998	6,877	1,321	201	659	949	8,485
1999	4,383	1,014	165	584	518	5,485

*Included in the Los Angeles Division Numbers.

Pro Se Filings Continue at High Levels

From 1994 through 1999, the number of Chapter 7 and 13 cases filed *pro se* (filed by an individual not represented by an attorney) averaged about 36%, one of the highest rates in the country. The following table shows the estimated number of *pro se* filings from 1994 through 1999. The number of *pro se* filings is significant because it adversely impacts the judicial and Clerk's Office workloads in the Court.

Central District of California Estimated Percentage of <i>Pro Se</i> Filings District-Wide: 1994-1999			
	Chapter 7	Chapter 13	Total
1994	40%	44%	42%
1995	36%	35%	36%
1996	35%	38%	36%
1997	37%	37%	37%
1998	32%	32%	32%
1999	33%	29%	31%
Average	36%	36%	36%